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IN the last *Chemical News* Delafontaine gives an account of further researches on the more deeply colored of the rare earths. This recent work was with Fergusonite from Bluffton, Texas, and he confirms the existence of the element philippium, discovered by him nearly twenty years ago, but whose independent existence as an element has been questioned by Roscoe and other observers. It is more closely related to terbium and cesium than to other rare earths, but is distinguished from both by marked reactions and the deep color of its oxid and subnitrate.

J. L. H.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.

THE officers of sections at the Toronto meeting have now been selected, although others may subsequently be added to the list. All the officers expect to attend the meeting and American men of science who are able to be present will thus have the privilege of meeting many of the leaders in science of Great Britain. The officers are as follows:

A.—MATHEMATICAL AND PHYSICAL SCIENCE.

President, Prof. A. R. Forsyth, M.A., D.Sc., F.R.S.
Vice-Presidents, R. T. Glazebrook, M.A., F.R.S.;
 Prof. A. Johnson, M.A., LL.D.; Prof. O. J. Lodge, D.Sc., F.R.S.
Secretaries, J. C. Glashan; Prof. W. H. Heaton, M.A. (*Recorder*); J. L. Howard, D.Sc.; Prof. J. G. McGregor, D.Sc., F.R.S.E.

B.—CHEMISTRY.

President, Prof. W. Ramsay, Ph.D., F.R.S.
Vice-Presidents, Prof. H. B. Dixon, M.A., F.R.S.; W. R. Dunstan, M.A., F.R.S.; Prof. B. J. Harrington, Ph.D., F.G.S.; Prof. W. H. Pike, M.A., Ph.D.; Prof. W. C. Roberts-Austen, C.B., F.R.S.; T. E. Thorpe, Ph.D., F.R.S.
Secretaries, Prof. W. H. Ellis, M.A., M.B.; Arthur Harden, Ph.D., M.Sc. (*Recorder*); C. H. Kohn, Ph.D.; Prof. R. F. Ruttan.

C.—GEOLOGY.

President, Dr. G. M. Dawson, C.M.G., F.R.S., F.G.S.
Vice-Presidents, Prof. C. Le Neve Foster, D.Sc., F.G.S., F.R.S.; Dr. H. Woodward, F.R.S., F.G.S.

Secretaries, Prof. A. P. Coleman, Ph.D.; G. W. Lamplugh, F.G.S.; Prof. H. A. Miers, F.R.S., F.G.S. (*Recorder*).

D.—ZOOLOGY.

President, Prof. L. C. Miall, F.R.S., F.L.S.
Vice-Presidents, Prof. W. A. Herdman, F.R.S.; Prof. R. Meldola, F.R.S.; Prof. E. B. Poulton, F.R.S.; Prof. R. Ramsay Wright, M.A., B.Sc.
Secretaries, W. Garstang, M.A., F.Z.S., (*Recorder*); W. E. Hoyle, M.A.; Prof. E. E. Prince, B.A.

E.—GEOGRAPHY.

President, J. Scott Keltie, LL.D., Sec. R.G.S.
Vice-Presidents, President N. Burwash, LL.D.; Major L. Darwin, Hon. Sec. R.G.S.; E. G. Ravenstein, F.R.G.S.
Secretaries, Col. F. Bailey, Sec. R.S.G.S.; Capt. E. Deville, H. R. Mill, D.Sc., F.R.G.S. (*Recorder*); J. B. Tyrrell, M.A.

F.—ECONOMIC SCIENCE AND STATISTICS.

President, Prof. E. C. K. Gonner, M.A., F.S.S.
Vice-Presidents, Prof. W. Clark, M.A., LL.D.; Sir C. W. Fremantle, K.C.B.; Prof. J. Mavor.
Secretaries, E. Cannan, M.A., F.S.S.; H. Higgs, LL.B., F.S.S. (*Recorder*); Prof. Adam Shortt, M.A.

G.—MECHANICAL SCIENCE.

President.—G. F. Deacon, M. Inst. C.E.
Vice-Presidents, Prof. W. E. Ayrtton, F.R.S.; Prof. H. T. Bovey, M.A.; Sir C. Douglas Fox, M. Inst. C.E.; Prof. John Galbraith, M.A.
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THE BRITISH REPORT ON THE BEHRING SEA
SEAL FISHERIES.

A Parliamentary paper was issued on May 22d containing Professor D'Arcy Thompson's report on his mission to Behring Sea. The report concludes as follows:

In the foregoing account I have merely set forth my observations of the herd and its past history in so far as both together show that the alarming statements to which utterance has been given in recent years, the accounts of the herd's immense decrease and the prophecies of its approaching extinction, are overdrawn and untenable. But it is my duty to state to your lordship that there is still abundant need for care and for prudent measures of conservation in the interests of all. A birth-rate which we estimate at 143,000 per annum is not great in comparison with the drain upon the stock. From one cause or another a loss of over 20,000 is experienced among the pups ere they emigrate to sea; and though the dangers they there encounter are unknown to us, we may take it for certain that the risks they run are great and the loss they endure considerable. When to the measured loss in infancy and to the unmeasured loss in youth and age we add the toll taken on the islands and the toll taken in the sea, it is not difficult to believe that the margin of safety is a narrow one, if it be not already in some measure overstepped. We may hope for a perpetuation of the present numbers; we cannot count upon an increase. And it is my earnest hope that a recognition of mutual interests and a regard for the common advantage may suggest measures of prudence which shall keep the pursuit and slaughter of the animal within due and definite bounds.

The London *Times*, which is supposed to reflect official opinion, publishes a column and a-half of editorial comment, ending as follows:

Our own commissioner is entirely of the same opinion [referring to Dr. Jordan's recommendation of further scientific investigation], and is much more cautious in the conclusions to which he has come. In these circumstances it seems only common sense to collect further evidence before we proceed to revise the present regulations. We are ready to admit that they may not be the best which it is possible to devise in the interests both of pelagic and of shore sealers. But we say that this has not yet been proved, and that until it is proved we are under no obligation to vary the present rules. The suggestion that we

should surrender the exercise of a lucrative industry which is admittedly lawful, without receiving an equivalent, merely in order to increase the actual and prospective profits of our rivals, is not admissible in any event. What would the United States answer to a similar proposal in regard to the fishery rights they possess on the 'American Shore' in New Foundland? They would answer, 'It is not business.'

GENERAL.

PROFESSOR W. CROOKES will be nominated as President of the British Association for the Bristol meeting of 1898.

PROFESSOR FELIX KLEIN has been elected a corresponding member of the Paris Academy of Sciences in the room of the late Professor Sylvester.

Mr. ROBERT DOUGLAS, known for his work in arboriculture and forestry, died on June 1st at Waukegan, Ill. He was born in England in 1813. Mr. Charles Benjamin Brush, formerly professor of civil engineering in New York University and a well known civil engineer, died in New York on June 3d, aged forty-nine years. The death is also announced of Sir Augustus Wollaston Franks, F.R.S., the archæologist, at the age of seventy-one years; of Dr. G. Ossowski, the geologist, at Tomsk, on April 16th; of Dr. Edwin Freiherr v. Sommaruga, assistant professor of chemistry at the University of Vienna, on May 10th, at the age of fifty-three years; and of A. L. O. Descloizemitt, the mineralogist member of the Paris Academy, on May 8th, at the age of seventy-nine years.

THE Rede lecturer of Cambridge University, Professor A. W. Rücker, was announced to deliver his lecture on June 9th, the subject being 'Recent Researches in Terrestrial Magnetism.'

WE learn from *Nature* that at the anniversary meeting of the Linnæan Society of London, held on May 24th, the gold medal of the Society was awarded to Dr. Jacob Georg Agardh, emeritus professor of botany in the University of Lund, known for his researches on *Algæ*.

An expedition from the biological department of the University of New York, under the direction of Professor Charles L. Bristol, sailed from New York for Bermuda, on June 3d. General Russell Hastings has offered the University land

near Hamilton, Bermuda, for the erection of a permanent biological station. Professor Bristol is accompanied by Dr. Tarleton H. Bean, director of the New York Aquarium, who will make collections for the Aquarium; by Walter Rankin, of Princeton University; by Mr W. H. Everett, instructor, and by several students of New York University.

DR. J. E. HUMPHREY, lecturer in botany in Johns Hopkins University, has left Baltimore for Jamaica with a party of students which will probably be joined later by Professor W. K. Brooks. A house for a marine biological laboratory has been secured at Port Antonio, on the north side of the Island. In other years the laboratory has been located at Port Henderson, on the south side, but it is thought that a change may offer new materials and opportunities.

NEWS from Adelaide indicates that Charles F. Wells and J. W. Jones were killed by natives while exploring central Australia. The expedition of five persons, led by Mr. A. L. Wells, was fitted out by Mr. Alfred L. Calvert and crossed the inland desert of Australia, starting from Cue, West Australia, in June of last year.

AN expedition fitted out by the Canadian government left Halifax on June 2d to investigate the practicability of the Hudson Bay route to Europe, especially for the shipment of grain from the Northwest.

THE New York *Evening Post* has printed an account of the discoveries of Dr. Sven Hedin, a Norwegian, who for the past three years has been exploring the least known regions of Persia, Russian Turkestan and the Pamirs. Among other interesting discoveries he is said to have found ruins of a city buried in the sands, containing valuable manuscripts.

It is reported that Captain Sverdrup will go with the *Fram* to Smith's Sound next year, spend the winter there, and then attempt a sledge journey northward.

LIEUTENANT PEARY will be accompanied this summer by a party under the direction of Mr. Russell W. Porter, who will make explorations in Baffin Land. A party from Colby University will also go north with Lieutenant Peary.

THE New York Aquarium was visited by no less than 21,456 persons on Sunday, June 6th.

It is proposed to enlarge the Missouri Botanical Garden, so that the land belonging to the Shaw estate, over eighty acres in extent, will be gradually added to it. It is planned to drain and grade twenty-one acres during the present season.

THE will of Mrs. Sarah Withers, of Bloomington, Ind., bequeaths \$40,000 to found a library in Nicholasville, Ky., where she was born. Some years ago she established the Withers library in Bloomington.

MR. F. J. WALZ has been sent by the United States Weather Bureau to take charge of the Maryland State Weather Service, which is conducted at the Johns Hopkins University, by the cooperation of the government, the University, the State and the Maryland Agricultural College.

THE last meeting for the present season of the American Mathematical Society was held at Columbia University on May 29th. Papers were presented by Professor F. Morley, of Haverford College; Dr. Emory McClintock, of New York, and Dr. E. O. Lovett, of Johns Hopkins University. The regular meeting of the Society will be held hereafter in New York on the last Saturday in October, December, February and April, each meeting to consist of a morning and afternoon session, which will allow as much time as the present monthly meetings. The Chicago Section will hold meetings in December and April of each year. The Society holds its summer meeting at Toronto on August 16th and 17th.

THE American Medical Association held its semi-centennial celebration at Philadelphia on June 2d, 3d and 4th. The address by the President, Dr. Nicholas Senn, reviewed the work of the Association, its past, its present and its future. Dr. Austin Flint, of New York, gave the address in medicine, and Dr. W. W. Keene, of Philadelphia, the address in surgery. The Association was also addressed by the President of the United States, the Governor of Pennsylvania and the Mayor of Philadelphia. It was reported that only about \$4,000 had been subscribed to the monument to

Benjamin Rush, to be erected at Washington, but the amount was much increased by subscriptions at the meeting. The Association will next meet at Denver, under the Presidency of Surgeon-General George M. Sternberg.

A CONFERENCE of the members of the Institution of Civil Engineers was held in London this year under conditions convenient to many who are precluded from attending the weekly meetings during the session, and serviceable to all by the discussion of a wider range of subjects than can be dealt with on ordinary occasions. The business of the conference differed from the ordinary proceedings of the institution, papers descriptive of works executed giving place to brief statements concerning important debatable matters in engineering science and practice, introduced with a view to eliciting discussion on the questions raised. The conference was held on May 25, 26 and 27, the morning of each day (from 10:30 to 1:30) being devoted to the consideration of the statements referred to, and visits of inspection to engineering works being made in the afternoon. The work of the conference was carried out under the direction of the Council, with the assistance of seven sectional committees. The sections were: Railways, with Sir Benjamin Baker as chairman; harbors, docks and canals, Mr. Harrison Hayter, chairman; machinery and transmission of power, Sir Frederick Bramwell, chairman; mining and metallurgy, Mr. T. Forster Brown, chairman; shipbuilding, Sir William H. White, chairman; waterworks, sewerage and gasworks, Mr. Mansergh, chairman, and applications of electricity, Mr. W. H. Preece, chairman.

A *Revue Philanthropique* will hereafter be published in Paris by Masson et Cie, edited by M. Paul Strauss. The *Revue* will be published monthly, each number containing 160 large pages. The first number contains articles of considerable scientific interest.

THERE has been established in Italy a 'Società Positivista,' whose object it is to demonstrate the importance of science for modern life. The society has established a bi-monthly journal entitled *Il Pensiero Moderno*, published by the Society at Via Collegio Romano, 26, and edited

by Professor G. Sergi. Professor Sergi contributes an introduction and an article to the first number. Professor Sergi is also one of the editors of a new *Revista Italiana di Sociologia*, which takes the place of the *Revista di Sociologia*, formerly edited by Professors Sergi and Tangorra.

THE first number of a monthly *American X-ray Journal* has been issued from St. Louis, being edited and published by Dr. Heber Roberts. It contains a portrait of Dr. Röntgen and a number of photographs especially intended for the medical profession.

THE report of the Medical Superintendent to the London Metropolitan Asylums Board on the use of anti-toxin and the treatment of diphtheria during the year 1896 confirms the favorable results reached the previous year. The percentage of mortality being reduced from 29.6 in 1894 to 20.8 in 1896.

IT has been announced in the Legislative Assembly of Cape Colony that the shooting of cattle had been stopped as being a useless attempt to maintain a clean belt. It was added that it was impossible to prevent the rinderpest from reaching Cape Colony.

THE International Fisheries Exhibition at Bergen, to which we have already referred, will be opened on May 16, 1898. It will include the following groups: 1. Fish products. 2. Fishing apparatus. 3. Vessels employed in the catch and their equipment. 4. Preservatives. 5. Lodging ships, lodging houses and station huts. 6. Tank and other transport vessels. 7. Models and drawings of warehouses, salting establishments, smoke houses, ice houses and other cold rooms. 8. Machines, tools and apparatus. 9. Fish culture. 10. Pleasure fisheries. 11. Facts about the fisheries and their development. 12. The life-saving service.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

MCGILL UNIVERSITY, Montreal, receives \$100,000 by the will of the late J. H. R. Molson, who was senior governor of the University.

THE REV. FATHER MACKAY has given \$5,000 to the Catholic University of America for the foundation of a scholarship.